



Hiking Boots Up!

By Mark Snyder, PWV Board Chair

Welcome to another exciting year for the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. I'm looking forward to getting out on the trails and seeing many of you. I never would have imagined that 20 years after joining PWV, I would be the chair for the 2022-2023 season, continuing to be a part of an amazing group of people that keeps on giving, protecting and sharing their love for our wilderness.

Recruiting is off to a strong start this season. Currently we have more than 106 applications and this is one of the largest number of folks showing interest. Thank you to the Recruiting Committee! Our training capacity and normal attritions will determine the final number of recruits. It's great to see such interest in PWV.

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We are coming out of the COVID-19 years and we are now looking at having in-person board meetings with the option to participate via Zoom. We are now looking at April 20th as our first hybrid meeting. All are welcome to attend any board meeting.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers | pww.org



PWV Board Chair Mark Snyder

Spring Training plans are well underway, with a 3-day weekend event scheduled for May 12-14 at the Buckhorn Camp and Resort Center. Existing members will be able to get their recertification training, as well. The Spring Training committee is also prepared with contingency plans to accommodate inclement weather. We are looking forward to a "normal" Spring Training but backups exist if needed.

We ended the 2022 year maintaining our strong financial position, due to continued disciplined spending, strong community outreach and funding programs. We are in an excellent position to support the many activities planned for the year.

Trail Crew and Trail Restoration are planning a summer of projects to keep our trails clear and in good condition. While the two committees are separate entities, they also utilize many of the same dedicated people, and so coordination between the

two is essential. We are looking at a great season to do some work on our trails, all while assisting "the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction." And did I mention that it's fun.

And if you are looking to camp and share stories with fellow members, consider the Stub Creek US Forest Service Ranger Station off of Laramie River Road. It's a great place to pitch a tent or sleep in your vehicle. And if you have horses or llamas, there is a fenced pasture and paddocks next to a stream. The PWV stock committee has been working to get this area in good condition to camp, for all PWV members, whether you have a horse, llama or you are a hiker. Camping in the mountains the night before a patrol is a great way to start your trip. Text Fred Allen, 970-218-7979, so that the camp host knows to expect you.

In closing, thank you to all the PWV members in helping to protect and preserve our wilderness. Your involvement and commitment with PWV makes it all possible for us to fulfill our mission with the US Forest Service. Hiking Boots Up!

Spring Training Plans Underway

By Jeff Randa

Spring Training Chair Jeff Randa is well

underway in developing plans for the three-day training event, May 12-14, at the Buckhorn Camp, Rist Canyon Road. Randa is also developing backup training plans for inclement weather and road conditions. Team leaders have graciously volunteered to tackle a variety of tasks in planning and conducting the training.

On Saturday evening, guest speaker David Neils will discuss his work with mountain lions and show photos and videos taken by trail cameras he deploys to capture these secretive cats in their natural habitat. All PWV members are invited to join us for dinner and this legendary speaker, as well as Sunday morning to help greet and congratulate our new members during the graduation ceremony.

On Saturday evening, guest speaker David Neils will discuss his work with mountain lions and show photos and videos taken by trail cameras he deploys to capture these secretive cats in their natural habitat.

"This will be a great weekend to connect with old friends and to meet new PWVs, as well as welcoming our newest members," said Randa.

Volunteers are needed for assisting with the kitchen, AV support and with check-in, welcome and parking.

Randa will provide additional details on Spring Training as planning progresses or if plans are modified. Please contact Jeff if you are interested in helping with Spring Training.

Trail Crew News!

By Steve Musial

Trail clearing is underway and PWV members have cleared 65 trees or more off the trails already this year, by the end of February. We are off to a good start.

Anyone and everyone in PWV can clear almost any tree from the trail as long as they are comfortable doing so and it is safe for them to do.



PWV Trail Members

Anyone in PWV can look at current trail reports and decide to go out and remove trees that have been reported by other members. It is always best to have at least two members along for the patrol. Clearing a tree is a great way to take a break from hiking. It really does give the leg muscles a rest while you get to work some upper body muscles.

There are also some organized trail clearing patrols being scheduled. Trail Crew and Restoration are coordinating some trail work days. Please see the PWV calendar and sign up, if interested in finding out more info on those dates.

Trail Restoration News

By Mark Snyder

The Restoration Committee is looking forward to a great summer of trail projects with the Trail Crew Committee this summer. While the committees are separate entities, we utilize a lot of the same people. Here is how we have defined both committees.

Trail Crew will focus on the following:

- All hazardous safety concerns are repaired, if possible, or reported to the Forest Service
- They are clear of downfallen trees
- Drainages are cleaned and functional
- Excessive brush is removed from the trail.

Restoration will work in conjunction with the Forest Service to undertake specific trail projects that improve Canyon Lakes Ranger District trails to a more sustainable condition.

Restoration projects will typically be:

- Rehabilitating trails to have proper out-slope, grade, and drainage
- Assisting in trail relocations
- Assisting in repairing/building trail bridges turnpikes, puncheons, drainage structures and the like
- Assisting in trail decommissioning/revegetation projects
- Assisting in construction of new trails.

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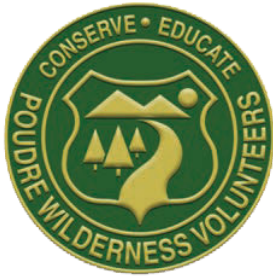
Both the Trail Crew and Restoration will perform these tasks always with safety in mind and to meet existing Forest Service standards.

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POUDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS MISSION

The mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is to assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction.

To achieve this mission Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits, trains, equips, and fields citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and hosts for the purpose of educating the public, and provides other appropriate support to these wild areas.

Scheduled Trail Work Dates for Trail Crew & Restoration – look for additional dates:

- **Weekend of June 9-11:** Restoration project, TBD, maybe on Little Beaver Creek trail
- **Weekend of June 23-25:** Trail Crew, Pingree Park area trail clearing to snow line (car camping)
- **Weekend of July 7-9:** Trail Crew, Upper Poudre and Rawah trail clearing to snow line (car camping)
- **Weekend of July 27-31:** Trail Crew, Rawah Trail clearing, 5-day backpack
- **Weekend of August 16-20:** Trail Crew, Wild 59, most likely in the Rawah's

We look forward to a great summer of training, getting out on the trails, being safe, having fun and getting some work done.

We invite you to join us! If you would like to join us, even for just one day, please sign up on the PWV Calendar (dates to be posted soon) for that trail project and updates on trail work this summer. Hiking Boots Up!

A Simplified Strategic Planning Process

By Bruce Williams

That is how Jeff Randa describes the process that he and other members of the Strategic Planning Committee used to identify strategic initiatives. Four strategic initiatives were approved by the board at a special session last fall. He continued: "Every several years, we need to assess where we can leverage or improve our

processes and approaches".

What began with a survey generating 257 comments and suggestions from 62 members (Board of Directors, Advisory Board members, and Committee Chairs) ultimately resulted in adopting the 4 strategic initiatives that PWV will work on over the next 3 years. The survey targeted identifying organizational weaknesses and opportunities. PWV members felt that addressing these areas would result in a long-term and strategic benefit to the organization.

Work is already underway on the initiatives, which include addressing Member Retention, Leadership Training, Fundraising Goals, and PWV Messaging.

Areas of improvement that surfaced during our effort included:

- **Member Retention** - Many members expressed concerns about PWV's attrition
- **Leadership Training** - Survey comments encouraged more training for new Board members and Committee Chairs.
- **Establish Fundraising Goals** - There is a concern regarding the lack of defined income and funding goals.
- **Coordinated/Planned PWV Messaging** - There is no coordinated and planned effort to manage PWV messaging to support recruiting, fundraising, and community education.

PWV is already a very successful organization and one of the largest of its kind in the US. The initiatives don't change PWV's mission, our commitment to the USFS, or our fundamental activities. Rather the initiatives identify current issues

that we believe will help the organization continue to prosper over the long term. These are important issues that are believed to have an enduring, long-term impact. The strategic Initiatives have been assigned to existing committees and members who are responsible for developing an action plan to address the initiative.

As committee member Jim Branch explained, "PWV has an outstanding committee structure to manage our near-term activities. The Strategic Planning process gives us the opportunity to identify and focus on a few key themes that will enhance the performance and resources of the entire organization over the longer term."

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By policy, PWV reviews and updates the strategic plan every 3 years. So, the responsible committees have a 3-year period to complete their analysis, develop their action plan and incorporate their recommendations. The Board of Directors will conduct status reviews of the progress twice a year during the 1st and 3rd quarters of each year to monitor progress and provide feedback.

Reflecting on the overall effort, committee member and long-time advocate of PWV's efforts to maintain strategic planning, Jerry Hanley, summed it up best, "*Strategic Planning is the answer for: where are you going (mission statement), how are you going to get there (Strategic initiatives), what are the action initiatives, (budgets/plans) and how do you know if/when you get there (metrics)?*"

PWV Kids in Nature Gearing Up for 2023

By Jeanne Corbin

PWV Kids in Nature Committee is gearing up for 2023 as more agencies are able to partner with us since COVID began, and as agencies have adapted somewhat to economic issues.



Carol Kennedy with a Fire Wheel, Werner Elem. School

Currently we are planning with ten agencies and schools for Kids in Nature hikes and/or activities in the cities. We are expanding our City-Based Educational Outreach Activities and also expanding our curricula choices for them.

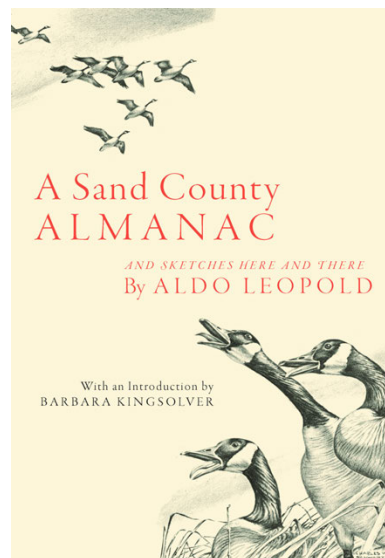
Please contact kidsinnature@pwv.org for more information.

PWV Book Club

By Chris Webb

A PWV Book Club started up this winter and has met twice. Readings focus on conservation, public lands, stewardship, systems, history, environmental issues, and other topics related to the mission and work of PWV.

The first two books were Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees* and discussions were held in person. The third book, the novel *The Overstory* by



Richard Powers, will be discussed on March 20th. The book club provides another social venue for PWV members and an enriching learning opportunity as well. A growing pool of diverse and interesting titles has been developed by participants.

Readings focus on conservation, public lands, stewardship, systems, history, environmental issues, and other topics related to the mission and work of PWV.

Please join us for some good company, insight, and dialogue! We will continue to meet in person about once every two months. Contact PWV members Judson Haverkamp, Carol Kennedy and/or Christopher Webb for more details.

Spring Tune-Up 2023

By Linda Reiter

Was held on Saturday, March 4 at the First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins. All returning members were invited to brush up on their patrolling skills and learn about the various committees and off-trail opportunities in PWV. We had 108 participants who attended sessions on Trailhead Yoga, Scats and Tracks, Gaia GPS, Ultralight Backpacking, packing your First Aid kit as well as several workshops with Kids in Nature. The Gear Giveaway table had loads of useful items, most of it claimed! Volunteers from the USFS and

Geocache Colorado were also on hand. The PWV Food Committee provided lunch, and Celia Walker and Jeff Randa organized a raffle with many cool prizes. Renee Skiba put together the following [slide show](#)-you'll see many of the people and activities from our first Spring Tune-Up!

Wilderness & Five Organizations Presentation

TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2023

Council Tree Library

For more information, [click the event](#) on the PWV Calendar.

The Wilderness areas in Colorado have a rich history and are well used by the public. We will explore the history of these Wilderness areas, the work done by five leading front range and western slope Colorado organizations to support these lands and the issues we face moving forward.

Recruiting for PWV

By Celia Walker

One of the leading questions when making a contact on the trail is something along the lines of "Where's home?" It supplies a wealth of useful information. If the answer is "Iowa" or some other "flatlander" location, you know they may not know about carrying water and sunscreen or avoiding thunderstorms. If they answer "Japan" or "Germany" you know they may not be familiar with moose behavior or that German "Elch" is our moose, not our elk. And if they are local---JACKPOT! This is a recruiting opportunity. Even with all the recent publicity about PWV and recruiting advertising, PWV's best recruiting source remains trail contacts. Tell them about PWV.org. If they click on the "Join" link at PWV.org and provide their contact info we'll send a reminder when the application window opens in January 2024. You could mention that PWV rangers are essential for

keeping almost 60 trails open in the area (3,300+ trees removed in 2022). And there's nothing wrong with mentioning what a terrific group of 300 people you enjoy! The more patrols, the more contacts. The more contacts, the more recruits. So ask any version of "Where's home?" when you meet folks on the trail.

From the PWV Stock Committee

By Fred Allen

The PWV Stock Committee is looking forward to getting out on the trails. We have 5 new stock recruits plus a new hiking member who has llamas. Plans are in the works for a busy and fun season.

Upcoming activities:

2nd Annual Stock Clinic
Sat, April 15th
8:30 am until about 1 pm
CSU Equine Center

Several guest speakers have already been arranged--more details to follow. This is open to the public--no admission fee--please help spread the word. Hot lunch to be served and a chance for our members to meet our new recruits.

Stock Challenge for Our New Recruits
Sat. May 6th
8 am until about noon
Young Gulch Trail

If you would like to help, please let us know. All PWV members are welcome to show up at noon to meet and greet our new stock patrollers.

PWV Teams Up with CSU
Fri. April 27th and Sat. April 28th

Three different CSU classes will be up at Elkhorn Creek Trail in the Red Feathers area with the desire to learn packing and basic trail work.

The mules and horses will be either high lined or possibly kept at the Scout Ranch corrals on Friday night. PWV will be also holding a trail crew leader training session up there and will supply all the tools and work with the approximately 30 students.

Memorial Day weekend at Stub Creek:

Tim Van Donselaar, Stock Committee co-chair is planning on camping all weekend and needs company. Undoubtedly a few fence repairs await. Also, the PWV Tent will need to be put up. It isn't too hard but requires 4 to 6 sets of hands.

And I imagine a couple of trees just might have fallen on some of the trails in the area, so don't forget a saw. If you don't have a saw, PWV has loaners!

Packing in Trail Crews: Starting in early July and finishing up in mid-August, the Stock Patrollers have been tasked with packing in some college aged work crews as well as a Native American crew. There are opportunities for our members to help out in various ways.

For more info on any of these activities and/or to help, text or call Fred Allen, Stock Committee Co-Chair: 970-218-7979.

Support PWV

PWV thrives and prospers with support from people like you! For the past two decades, dedicated individuals have served the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers by providing countless hours patrolling and maintaining trails, educating users of the backcountry and wilderness areas of Northern Colorado, thus creating and preserving the legacy of these cherished areas for future generations.

Donations to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteer and the Endowment Funds qualify as a tax deductible charitable donation. PWV is a 501 (c) (3) organization: www.pwv.org/donate (please check if your employer has a matching program!).

Arrowhead Lodge USFS Help

By Fred Allen

Special Project. The Forest Service has requested help sanding the floors at the Arrowhead Lodge and the Buckhorn Ranger Station. We would try to get this done the last week of April or early May. The FS will be renting equipment and PWV already has plenty of personal protective gear. If interested in helping, please contact Fred Allen 970-218-7979.



PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors. Our success is enhanced by their participation:

- **ABC7 The Denver Channel** *Denver, CO*
- **Brown's Shoe Fit** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Chapel in the Pines** *Red Feather Lakes, CO*
- **The Clinton Family Fund** *Chicago, IL*
- **Colorado Gives** *Arvada, CO*
- **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Exxon/Mobil** *Irving, TX*
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- **Foothills Unitarian Church** *Fort Collins, CO*
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- **Oboz Footwear** *Bozeman, MT*
- **Odell Brewing Company** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Takeda Pharmaceuticals** *Tokyo, Japan*
- **Walmart Foundation** *Bentonville, AR*

Special thanks to:

- **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**

PWV on the Trail

